

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An implant for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising:

a body portion being movable through an opening in the body tissue and defining a longitudinal central axis, said body portion having a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis and said body portion having a first passage extending through said body portion transverse to the longitudinal central axis for threading the suture therethrough; and

a pointed end portion for piercing the body tissue being connected to said body portion along said longitudinal central axis, said pointed end portion having a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis, the maximum transverse length of the pointed end portion being no greater than the maximum transverse length of the body portion; said body portion and said end portion having a second passage formed therethrough transverse to the longitudinal central axis and transversing said body portion and said end portion for threading the suture therethrough.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the body portion is substantially cylindrical.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the pointed end portion is conical in shape.

Claims 4-9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the first passage and the second passage are substantially parallel.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The implant according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said body portion has a trailing end, the pointed end portion forming an opening in the body tissue in

the patient's body when force is applied against said trailing end of the cylindrical body along the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is made of bone.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is allogenic bone.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is autogenic bone.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is xenogenic bone.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is cortical bone.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is formed of a single piece of freeze dried bone.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is made of material selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal alloy, biodegradable material, and bioerodible material.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the body tissue is soft tissue.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the body tissue is bone.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein:
said pointed end portion is a substantially conical end portion having a central axis which is coincident with the longitudinal central axis of the body portion;
the body portion and said substantially conical end portion are made of bone; the implant being rotatable when a suture is threaded through said first passage and the second passage is tensioned.

Claims 22-23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) An implant assembly for securing a suture relative to body tissue in a patient's body, comprising:

a cylindrical body portion ~~defining~~ having a longitudinal central axis and a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis;

a pointed end portion for piercing the body tissue being connected to said cylindrical body portion and having a central axis being disposed coincidently with the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body and having a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis no greater than the maximum transverse length of the cylindrical body portion, said pointed end portion being more rigid than the body tissue;

said cylindrical body portion having a first passage formed therein, said first passage being proximate said pointed end and extending through the cylindrical body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

said cylindrical body portion having a second passage extending therethrough in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

a suture connected to the cylindrical body under tension and extending through the first and second passages; and

a retainer having a first configuration in which the retainer is freely slidable along the suture and a second configuration in which the retainer is secured and connected to the suture for maintaining the tension in the suture.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 24, wherein the retainer is made of a material that becomes flowable when ultrasonic vibratory energy is applied.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 21, wherein the conical end portion forms an opening in bone in the patient's body.

Claim 27. (Cancelled)

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein a force distribution member is disposed between the retainer and the body tissue.

Claim 29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) An implant for securing a suture to body tissue, comprising:

an anchor including a body portion for moving through the body tissue and a pointed portion for piercing the body tissue;

said body portion having a longitudinal central axis and a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis;

said pointed portion being connected to said body portion along said longitudinal central axis and having a maximum transverse length transverse to the longitudinal central axis;

said anchor having a passage formed therethrough for receiving the suture, wherein the maximum transverse length of the pointed portion is no greater than the maximum transverse length of the body portion.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said passage extends through said anchor at an acute angle to said longitudinal central axis.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said passage transverses said pointed portion.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said anchor has a further passage formed therethrough.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 33, wherein said passage and said further passage are orthogonal to said longitudinal central axis and said passage and said further passage are parallel.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 32, wherein said passage is formed in said body portion and said pointed portion.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 30, wherein said pointed portion is more rigid than the body tissue.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) An implant assembly for fastening body tissue, comprising:

an implant according to claim 30; and
a suture threaded through said passage.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly according to claim 37, further comprising a retainer for maintaining tension in said suture, said retainer being freely slidable along said suture in a first configuration and said retainer being secured and connected to said suture in a second configuration.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly according to claim 38, wherein said retainer is flowable when ultrasonic vibratory energy is applied thereto.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) An implant assembly for fastening body tissue, comprising;

the implant according to claim 33; and

a suture having two ends and being threaded through said passage and said further passage, said suture tilting said implant relative to said longitudinal central axis when said ends are tensioned.